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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Legislative Counsel
Washington, D. C. 20505

Telephone: [redacted]

16 January 1978

TO: Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Attn: Mr. Charles Snodgrass

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[redacted]
Office of Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

(19 Dec 77
"Notes from the Director")

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okc-78-0176

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Journal item
#4, 17 Jan 78

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Notes from the Director

No. 1

19 December 1977

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT

Senator Inouye recently made a report to the Senate on his year-and-a-half as the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. The highlights are quoted below:

In recent years the Intelligence Community, particularly the CIA and the FBI, have been the targets of suspicion and abuse. There is no question that a number of abuses of power, mistakes in judgment, and failures by the intelligence agencies have harmed the United States. We, of course, hope that these abuses are behind us and will not occur again. These events did not happen in a vacuum. In almost every instance, the abuses that have been revealed were a result of direction from above, including presidents and secretaries of state. Further, in almost every instance, some members of both houses of Congress assigned the duty of oversight were knowledgeable about these activities.

Every organization, whether the Congress, the White House, the CIA, a corporation, a university, or a church, is made up of men and women with their full share of excellences and failures. With the exception of a very small number who broke the law or failed in their trust, we owe a great debt to our Intelligence Community. It is made up of men and women of unusual dedication and ability who serve our country under the most difficult of circumstances. We can be proud that they have come through the trials of the past several years with a clearer sense of purpose and with a strengthened belief in the value of a life of service to our nation.

The Intelligence Community has been in a turmoil over the past few years. It has been the subject of a number of Congressional inquiries, internal investigations, and intense criticism from the press and the public. With the support of the President and under the firm direction of Stansfield Turner, the Intelligence Community is in the process of creating a new organizational structure which should lead to more efficient coordination of its worldwide activities and a better overall intelligence product. It is my view that the intelligence agencies of the United States are now functioning under strict guidelines set forth by the President and the National Security Council, which